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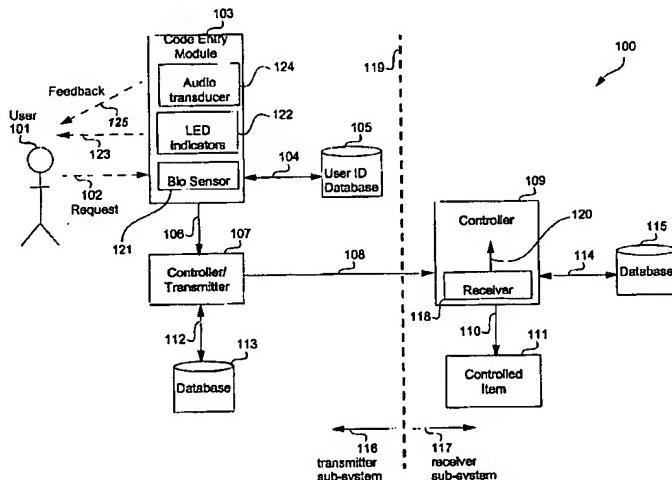
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(57) Abstract: A system (100) is disclosed for providing secure access to a controlled item (111), the system comprising a database (105) of biometric signatures, a transmitter subsystem (116) comprising a biometric sensor (121) for receiving a biometric signal (102), means for matching the biometric signal against members of the database of biometric signatures (105) to thereby output an accessibility attribute, and means (107) for emitting a secure access signal (106) conveying information dependent upon said accessibility attribute, wherein the secure access signal (108) comprises one of at least a rolling code, an encrypted Bluetooth™ protocol, and a WiFi™ protocol, and a receiver sub-system (117) comprising means (109) for receiving the transmitted secure access signal (108) and means for providing conditional access to the controlled item (111) dependent upon said information.